Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

22. (New) A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first identification unit to identify an area of an input image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a screened halftone area;

an output unit to output one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal based on an output of the first identification unit for each identified area; and

a recording unit to form an image for each identified area to be a respective color based on the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area.

23. (New) A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

an identification unit to identify an area of an input image as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area;

an output unit to output one of a chromatic character area identification signal and an achromatic character area identification signal based on an output of the identification unit for each identified area; and

a recording unit to form an image for each identified area with a respective color which corresponds to the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area.

24. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a second identification unit to identify the character area as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area.

25. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a specification unit to specify the respective color for each said identified area.

26. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a specification unit to specify the respective color for each said identified area.

27. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a gradation processing unit to gradation-process image information of the achromatic character area.

28. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising a gradation processing unit to

gradation-process image information of the achromatic character area.

29. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the first identification unit has an identification reference value and comprises an operation setting unit to set the identification reference value.

30. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the identification unit has an identification reference value and comprises an operation setting unit to set the identification reference value.

31. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the first identification unit has a first identification reference value and the second identification unit has a second identification reference value, and wherein the color image forming apparatus further comprises an operation setting unit to set the first and second identification reference values.

32. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the input image is obtained by reading a document with a document reading device.

33. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the input image is obtained by reading a document with a document reading device.

34. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a control unit to determine whether the output of the first identification unit is accurate.

35. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a control unit to determine whether the output of the identification unit is accurate.

36. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising an adjustment unit to automatically adjust the identification reference value based on control signals output from the control unit.

37. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising an adjustment unit to automatically adjust the identification reference value based on control signals output from the control unit.

38. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the adjustment unit comprises at least one of a

spatial filter adjustment unit, a gamma control unit, a color conversion adjustment unit, and an error diffusion adjustment unit.

39. (New) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the adjustment unit comprises at least one of a spatial filter adjustment unit, a gamma control unit, a color conversion adjustment unit, and an error diffusion adjustment unit.

40. (New) A color image forming method, comprising:

identifying an area of an input image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a screened halftone area;

outputting one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal based the identification of each identified area; and

recording an image for each identified area to be a respective color based on the output signal for each said identified area.

41. (New) A color image forming method, comprising:

identifying an area of an input image as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area;

outputting one of a chromatic character area identification signal, and an achromatic character area information signal; and

recording an image for each identified area to be a respective color based on the output signal for each said identified area.

42. (New) The color image forming method according to claim 40, further comprising identifying the character area as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area.